

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify the invention. This Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Answer filed on November 28, 2006.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In response to Applicants' Appeal Brief of September 28, 2007, the Examiner has filed an Answer before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. In the Answer, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,645,741 to Terayama et al. (hereinafter "Terayama") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,148,001 to Stava. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Answer, the Examiner notes that claim 1 does not require that the output of the current circuit is always higher than the output of the second rectifier circuit. Instead, the Examiner states that claim 1 merely requires that the output of the current circuit is higher than the output of the second rectifier circuit. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to explicitly recite this feature. Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, as discussed below.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an arc welder in which "an output voltage of the current circuit is always higher than an output voltage of the second rectifier circuit" (emphasis added). Applicants submit that Terayama does not teach or suggest this feature. On the contrary, Fig. 2 of Terayama shows that the output voltage of the auxiliary power source is lower than the output voltage of the main power source for currents higher than I_{s3} . Further, Stava does not remedy this deficiency in Terayama.

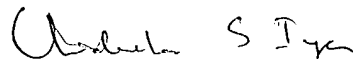
Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Terayama, Stava, and their combination, at least by virtue of the above-mentioned differences, as well as its additionally recited features. Further, claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1, and are therefore also patentable over Terayama and Stava, at least by virtue of their dependency. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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